

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William DiBianca on 9/28/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, lines 15,16 the phrase "having surfaces corresponding to the angled perimeter of the first baseplate" was deleted. In lines 17,18 the phrase "having surfaces corresponding to the angled perimeter of the second baseplate" was deleted. In line 18, after the word "surface" the phrase -----, wherein the top and bottom angled surfaces of the distal end of the manipulation tool each comprises three flat surfaces forming two recessed corners, a first of the flat surfaces converging with a second of the flat surfaces to form a first of the recessed corners, the first of the flat surfaces also converging with a third of the flat surfaces to form a second of the recessed corners----- has been added.

In claim 19, line 29 after the word "two" the phrase ----inwardly angled---- was added. In line 31, the phrase "the at least one of" was deleted and the word "is" was deleted and replaced with ----are----. In line 35, "the" is deleted and ---- inwardly angled--- was added after the word "flanking" and the phrase ---

each of the two sets of angled faces of the distal end of ---- was added after the words "surface of".

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1,2,4-7,9,10,12-15,19,21-28 have been allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian E. Pellegrino whose telephone number is 571-272-4756. The examiner can normally be reached on M- F (7am-5:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Brian E Pellegrino/
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